

**The following lesson example is for leaves. You could do something similar with rocks or shells at the beach.**

With paper sack in hand, take a walk through your neighborhood or a park. Collect as many different kinds of leaves as you can.

**Back at home choose one leaf and do the following:**

1. **Feel** it with fingers and rub it against your cheek...is it smooth, scratchy, rough, wet, like a \_\_\_\_\_ etc.? Let student come up with his/her own feel words.
2. **Sketch** the leaf and label it with some of the "feel words".
3. Next pick it up and **smell** it...How does it smell? ... sweet, sour, dusty, earthly, fresh, like a \_\_\_\_\_, etc.? Again, student should think of his own words.
4. Then, **look** at the leaf like a scientist. How many veins, how many points, what color(s), shape, large, small, long, wide one point, 5 points, wilted, new? He adds those words to surround the sketch
5. After that, hold the leaf up to your ear and rub or scrunch it. What do you **hear**? crunching, quietness, soft swishing
6. Next do one or all of the following:
  - Make a painting of the leaves on a large 12x18 paper, using a black crayon to draw the outlines of the leaves and the veins and filling them in with watercolors (or create any other artistic expression he would like). Leave a blank space in the middle of the paper with the leaves surrounding it.
  - Write a poem about leaves using some of the words you came up with. Paste the poem in the middle of the leaf painting. Here's a poetry frame, but make your own.

**The most important thing about leaves is that\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Leaves are \_\_\_\_\_.**

**And they are \_\_\_\_\_**

**They look \_\_\_\_\_.**

**They sound \_\_\_\_\_**

**You can find them\_\_\_\_\_.**

**They have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

**They make the world \_\_\_\_\_.**

**But the most important thing about leaves is \_\_\_\_\_.**

(Or write and perform (video) a song or a rap about leaves.) Send video to friends, your grandma and grandpa.

9. BBC America has a great program called Seasonal Wonderlands, episode 1- New England, about why leaves change color in New England in the fall. it's not just about the structure and purpose of leaves and trees. It also shows and explains how animals, birds and insects help trees.

10. Research on line/in books the common trees in Camarillo and what kinds of animals, birds and insects live in the Camarillo area and need the trees to survive.

11. Research leaves and find out the names of the trees from which he gathered leaves.

12. Kids need to identify real life problems and think of ways to solve them so you might talk about the importance of trees and leaves. Student writes an opinion piece letter about the importance of trees and leaves and why we should plant and protect our trees. (State an opinion; give several reasons for your opinion and end by restating your opinion in a different way.)

13. Send copies of the letter, painting and/or poem to the local Park Department or the Ventura County Star's letters to the editor, or the Ventura County Audubon and/ or Horticultural Society or all of them. I know from experience that they will LOVE receiving these and will likely respond.

14. Send his creations to his teacher who could share it with his class, asking the kids to do something similar. If/when school reconvenes, she could put their work together in a class book or have each child share their paintings, sketches, sketch-notes, poems, songs, raps, letters with other classes or invite and present to the people from the groups above.

15. You could easily add some math... sort and count the leaves by category-shape, color, size, number of veins, etc. Identify patterns in each leaf. Make a graph depicting size, veins, etc. Estimate how many leaves are on a tree they see on their walk. Measure the circumference of very large trees. See how many members of your family it takes to hold hands around the trunk. Estimate how many trees on your street, then go out and tally them.

Lots of standards in these activities...reading, writing, science, social studies, art, music

If you try any of this, please let me know how it goes so I can improve it to share with others.

My best,  
Judy